

GENUINE and AUTHENTIC

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A C C O U N T

OF THE

LIFE, TRIAL, and EXECUTION,

OF

Elizabeth Brownrigg,

W H O W A S

Executed on Monday the 14th of September,
1767, for the barbarous Murder of MARY
CLIFFORD, her Apprentice Girl.

W I T H

Her BEHAVIOUR while under Sentence of Death, and
at the Place of Execution.

Together with

The SUFFERINGS of MARY MITCHEL,
and MARY JONES.

To which is prefixed,

A FRONTISPIECE of Mrs. BROWNRIGG in the Cell
in Newgate; and the Manner of her Torturing the Girls;
with the DARK HOLE where the Girls were confined on
Sundays, truly represented.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. RICHARDS, at his LOTTERY-OFFICE,
No. 44. between Fetter-Lane and Bartlet's-Build-
ings, Holborn.

M,DCC,LXVII.

W. Musgrave.

A
Genuine and Authentic
A C C O U N T
O F

Elizabeth Brownrigg.

MURDER is, of all Crimes, the most detestable, in the Sight both of God and Man, and rarely goes unpunished, even in this World. The wild Savages of *America*, whose Notions of Good and Evil are but few, and those often very erroneous, yet are unanimous in this, to punish Murder with the utmost Severity. Among Christians indeed, whose Religion teaches them Benevolence and Humanity, Charity and Good-will, and all the social Virtues, one would imagine such a Crime should hardly be heard of, much less, that it could be perpetrated with all the Horror of the most wanton Cruelty. Yet such is the Depravity of human Nature, that not all the Obligations of Religion, nor the Fear of eternal Punishment, can restrain the Ferocity of some Tempers from committing the most shocking Cruelties, not only on Brutes that serve them in their respective Capacities, according to their Natures, but on their own Species, and this with all the Calmness imaginable, and without any Provocation. To prove this, we need not ransack History for Examples; a very recent Instance will easily demonstrate the Truth of what I have above asserted. It is the Case of Mrs. *Brownrigg*; a Case so extraordinary,

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traordinary, as is scarce to be parallell'd in History ; and as a true and faithful Relation of the whole Affair will furnish Instructions of great Utility to all Sorts and Degrees of People, I have been at the Pains of collecting every Circumstance relating thereto, from the Beginning till the Criminal's last Exit at *Tyburn*.

In the Year 1745, *James Brownrigg*, a House-painter, married *Elizabeth* his Wife, then a Servant in the Family of Mr. R——, in *Prescot-street, Goodman's-Fields*; *Brownrigg*, at the same Time, served his Apprenticeship with a Plaisterer and Painter in that Neighbourhood.

Their first Settlement, after Marriage, was at *Greenwich*, where he carried on his Business for five Years. Then they came to *London*, where they lived a considerable Time, and at last took a House in *Fleur-de-luce Court*, where they have continued ever since.

Mrs. *Brownrigg*, it seems, was very fertile, and brought her Husband sixteen Children, three of whom only are now living.

After she had done bearing Children, she undertook the Business of a Midwife, under the Tuition of Dr. *K—y*, a Gentleman of known Abilities; and was so well versed in the Practice of her Office, that she executed it to the general Approbation of the Patients that came under her Hands; and at length became so well known for her Skill and Tenderness, that the Officers of the Parish of *St. Dunstan's* in the West were induced to appoint her Midwife to their Workhouse, wherein she acquitted herself with Judgment and Humanity; and her Business here lying amongst the poorest Sort of Objects, destitute of every Necessary, but what such a miserable Place afforded, she often relieved them by her charitable Benevolence.

But Mrs. *Brownrigg*, besides her general Practice Abroad, had fitted up Conveniencies in her House for the Accommodation of pregnant Women who wanted to lye-in privately. And it having been reported, and generally believed, that she made a very bad Use of these private Doings; that she took Money to provide for the Children that were born there; that for Reward, she had destroyed divers of these Children, and prevented many from coming alive into the World: Being interrogated hereupon, while she lay under Sentence of Death in *Newgate*,

Newgate, she solemnly protested, that there was not the least Ground for such Stories; that though she often entertained pregnant Women to lye-in at her House, yet the Children born there were taken away, and provided for by their Friends, but where, and by whom, she knew not; that no such Child ever died in her House, and but only one was still-born; and that of all the Women she had delivered since she had begun to practise, only two had died, whose Deaths were not occasioned through any Neglect or Want of Care in her.

While she was thus carrying on the Business of a Midwife, she bethought herself of another Way of getting Money, which was, by taking Girls Apprentices from the Parish Workhouse, it being the usual Custom in the Parish of *St. Dunstan's*, to give 5*l.* with every Girl so apprenticed. Two of these unfortunate Creatures she took from the Workhouse of that Parish, namely, *Mary Clifford* and *Mary Mitchel*, besides another she had from the Foundling Hospital.

Mary Clifford was the Daughter of *J. Clifford*, a Shoemaker in *White-Friars*, whose Wife dying, left this, and several other Children, to his Charge; but he not being in a Capacity to take proper Care of them, and likewise marrying again, the poor Children were thrown upon the Parish. She and *Mary Mitchel*, another poor destitute Girl, were apprenticed to Mrs. *Brownrigg*, Dec. 24, 1765, who received 5*l.* with each of them, as aforesaid, besides Apparel sufficient for their Wear for two Years, though her Neighbours could not conceive what Occasion she had for any Apprentice at all, or what Trade she could learn them, as she herself followed only the Business of Midwifery, and her Husband that of House-painting.

Besides these two Girls, she took another from the Foundling Hospital, whose Name was *Mary Jones*. She was received into that Hospital April 6, 1751, and was bound to *James Brownrigg*, May 13, 1765. But her Stay here could be but very short; for July 24 following, we find an Entry in the Books of the Hospital as follows:

“ Ordered, that Mr. *Plumptre*, the Hospital Solicitor,
 “ do write to *James Brownrigg*, a Painter in *Fetter-Lane*,
 “ who had the Child *Mary Jones* apprenticed to him by
 “ this Corporation, and acquaint him, that if he doth

“ not forthwith make Satisfaction for the Abuse to the
 “ said Child, that this Corporation will prosecute him
 “ with the utmost Severity.”

Accordingly, *Brownrigg* had Notice given him of this Order ; but he not paying that Respect to it which the Governors thought the Nature of the Affair required, he was summoned before the Chamberlain of *London*, where the Matter was finally adjusted, and the Satisfaction demanded given.

The Reasons that induced this Girl to quit her Master's Service so abruptly, were the frequent and cruel Whippings given her by Mrs. *Brownrigg*, in which (as the Girl affirmed) she was often assisted by her Husband.

The Manner in which she exercised her Cruelties upon this poor Girl being somewhat extraordinary, it deserves a more particular Relation.

Her Method was this : She laid two Chairs on the Floor, in such a Form, that one supported the other ; then she and her Husband fastened the Girl upon the Backs of those Chairs, sometimes naked ; but if she had her Cloaths on, her Mistress pulled them over her Head, and whipped her till she had tired herself.

Sometimes, when the Girl had been washing any of the Rooms or Stairs, her Mistress has taken Occasion to find Fault with her Work, and, by Way of Punishment, has snatched her up in her Arms, and sous'd her over Head and Ears in a Pail of dirty Water that was standing by, repeating it several Times, and often threatened to drown her in a Tub of Water, which she ordered *Mary Mitchel* to fill for that Purpose. By which cruel Usage the Girl received several Contusions in many Parts of her Body, particularly in her Neck and Shoulders, from the Edges and Bale of the Pail.

And indeed, so great were the Sufferings of this poor Girl, and still under Apprehensions of yet worse to come, that she resolved, on the first Opportunity, to release herself from this terrible Situation ; which she effected in the following Manner.

Her Bed, it seems, was in a Hole under a Dresser, in the same Room where *Brownrigg* and his Wife lay, and facing the Feet of their Bed. Here, as one *Sunday* Morning she lay ruminating on, and lamenting her miserable Condition, smarting with the Bruises she had al-
 ready

ready received, and dreading what she was yet likely to suffer, she espied the Key of the outer Door hanging on a Nail against a Post ; then turning her Eyes towards her Master's Bed, and perceiving they were both fast asleep, she immediately shuffled on her Cloaths, crept softly to the Door, unlocked it, and bid adieu to that unhospitable Mansion.

The poor Creature having thus obtained her Liberty, hastened away as fast as she could to her only Home, the Hospital, but not knowing the Way, she enquired of every Body she met, and at last found it, to her inexpressible Joy, and was instantly admitted. Let us now return to the other two poor Girls, whose Situation was no less dismal than that of this poor unhappy Foundling.

Mary Clifford, who was the third Apprentice, and the chief Object of her Mistress's infernal Rage, was bound out by the Officers of *White-Friars* Precinct to *James Brownrigg*, Feb. 18, 1766. The only Friend she had was her Mother-in-law, who happened to be then in the Country. On her Return to Town, being informed of what was done, she immediately went to see the Girl, but was told by a Neighbour, that no such Person was there ; for it seems *Mrs. Brownrigg*, imagining such an Enquiry might be made, had taken the Precaution to desire an opposite Neighbour, if any one should ask after the Girl, to say she (*Mrs. Brownrigg*) had no Apprentice at all.

Upon which she applied herself to the Overseers of *White Friars*, to be informed what they had done with her Daughter, who assured her that they had bound her out to *Brownrigg* as aforesaid. Upon which she went again, and seeing *James Brownrigg*, desired to see *Mary Clifford* their Girl ; he said no such Person lived there ; and threatened, if she made any Disturbance, he would take her before my Lord Mayor, and she thereupon went away. Soon after this, a Baker's Apprentice and Journeyman, who lived just by *Brownrigg*, came and told her that her Daughter was there, and very barbarously used. She acquainted the Parish Officers with what she had heard. They went with her to *Brownrigg's* House, and the Officers demanding to see the Girl, were told that the Girl they enquired for was not at Home, but was gone into the Country. *Mrs. Brownrigg*, seeing the

the Officers in the Shop, went out of Doors immediately, and made her Escape. The Officers still insisted on seeing the Girl, and *Brownrigg* as peremptorily denied her being there, and said she was in *Hertfordshire*. At last he produced *Mary Mitchell*. The Officers being persuaded that the other Girl was in the House, searched all over the house from top to bottom, but could not find her. But on the Officers threatening, that if he did not produce her, they would take him before a Magistrate, and accordingly ordering a Coach to be ready to carry him, *Brownrigg* promised to produce the Girl, and his Son *John* brought her in, but in a most miserable Condition; her Head was cut, with many terrible Gashes upon it; her Back, Legs and Thighs, were in the same sad Condition, and a very bad Wound appeared upon one of her Hips; her Head and Throat were prodigiously swelled, and her Mouth extended in such a Manner, that she could not shut her Lips, nor even speak but with a Sort of inarticulate Sound in the Throat. Upon which the Officers took both the Girls away, and conveyed them to the Workhouse, and put *Clifford* under the Care of a Surgeon, who on examining her Case, said she was in a very dangerous Way.

Being carried to the Workhouse, they were ordered to be undressed and put to Bed. When they came to pull off *Mitchell's* leathern Bodice, the poor Wretch screamed out most terribly; for the Leather sticking fast to the Wounds, put her to intolerable Pain in taking it off. But being promised she should never return to her Mistress again, she began to take Heart, and assured Mr. *Grundy* the Overseer, that the Moment before she herself had been introduced to him at *Brownrigg's* House, she had parted with *Mary Clifford*, on the Garret Stairs. And it appeared afterwards, that *Brownrigg* took this Opportunity to convey the Girl into a Cupboard under the Beaufet in the Dining-room, and shut her in; which the Officers having no Suspicion of, never searched, as they did every other Part of the House.

The Apothecary, who attended the Girls, finding them, especially *Clifford*, in a very bad Way, he acquainted the Officers of the Parish, that he being no Surgeon, it would be proper to send them to the Hospital; which was accordingly done.

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Mean while *Brownrigg* was carried to *Wood-street* Compter, in order to be taken before a Magistrate the next Day; and his Wife (as before observed) having made her Escape, was soon followed by her eldest Son, who took with him some Cloaths, her Gold Watch, and some Money.

It may here be proper to relate in what Manner this dark Scene of Iniquity was discovered, and brought to Light: Thus it was. An Apprentice of Mr. *Deacon*, a Baker in *Fleur-de-luce* Court, next Door to Mr. *Brownrigg*, on the 3d of *August*, going up to a two Pair of Stairs Window, and looking down on the Sky-light, the Window of which was taken off, he saw *Mary Clifford*, her Back and Shoulders cut in a very shocking Manner, without a Cap, and her Head wounded and bloody. Then he went down two Pair of Stairs, and getting thro' a Window, crept to the Sky-light, where he had a full View of her; he called to her several times, but had no Answer; he then tossed down some Bits of Mortar, one of which fell on her Head; upon which she looked up, and he saw her Eyes black, and her Face extremely swelled, and made a Noise something like a long — O! and then withdrew backwards. He then went down and told his Mistress, and what a miserable Condition the Girl was in. Upon which Mrs. *Deacon* sent for a Watchmaker's Wife (a Neighbour) and telling her what her Apprentice had seen, desired her to go and find out the Girl's Mother-in-law, and tell her how cruelly her Daughter had been used; she came, and what followed has already been related.

It should also be remembered, that *Brownrigg*, being concerned in a Sale at *Hampstead*, bought a Hog, and brought it Home to his House in *Fleur-de-luce* Court. This Hog he put into a covered Yard, over which was a Sky-light; after awhile, it was thought necessary to open the Sky-light, to give Vent to the Stench, occasioned by keeping the Hog in so close a Place; and it was thro' this Sky-light that Mr. *Deacon's* Apprentice had a View of this miserable Object.

Another Thing to be observed is, that when the Parish Officers came to demand a Sight of the Girls, *Brownrigg* thinking to intimidate them with high Words, and a threatening Tone of Voice, sent for a Lawyer, who

who came, and to assist his Client in terrifying the Overseers, and to make them desist from their Purpose, drew up a Writing in Form, demanding by what Authority they entered the House, and threatening them with a Prosecution unless they immediately quitted it. Mr. Grundy however was not to be frightened, but resolutely pursued his Search till the Girl was produced, as before related.

Brownrigg was committed to *Wood-street* Compter, and the next Day was carried before Alderman *Crosby* at *Guildhall*, before whom likewise the two Girls were brought from the Hospital to be examined. *Mary Clifford* being in a very weak Condition, was carried in a Chair, and first examined, but was not able to answer more than yes or no, to whatever was asked her.

Mary Mitchell was then questioned by the Alderman, and she deposed, that her Mistress had often tied them up both, naked, with their Arms across, to an iron Staple that was fixed to a Beam in the Cellar for that Purpose, and whipped them in a most cruel and barbarous Manner for the most trifling Offences; that on the *Friday* before, *Mary Clifford*, in particular, was thus tied up, and whipped six Times, and herself twice; that on the *Sunday* before, they were locked up in the Coal-hole under the Cellar Stairs, where they had often been confined before, without any Thing given them to eat, except a Piece of Bread, and without so much as a Drop of Water, or any other Kind of Liquid. Having given this Information, they were both returned to the Hospital, where all possible Care was taken of them; and *Brownrigg* was sent back to the Compter for farther Examination, and a Warrant granted to apprehend *Elizabeth Brownrigg*.

Diligent Search was made after her, and not a House among her Acquaintance was left unvisited, where it was supposed she might be concealed. Two Persons went down to *Stanstead*, in *Hertfordshire*, where she had a Child of six Years of Age, but found her not there. All Enquiries proving unsuccessful, it was determined to insert an Advertisement in the News-papers, and on *Saturday August 8*, this appeared :

“ Whereas *Elizabeth*, the Wife of *James Brownrigg*,
 “ Painter, of *Fleur-de-luce* Court, *Fleet-street*, stands
 “ charged

“ charged on Oath, with cruelly treating two Appren-
 “ tice Girls, so that their Lives are in great Danger :
 “ Whoever will apprehend her, so that she may be
 “ brought to Justice, shall have Ten Guineas Reward,
 “ of the Overseers of the Parish of *St. Dunstan's* in the
 “ West. She is a middle-sized slim Woman, of a swar-
 “ thy Complexion, near 50 Years of Age; had on a
 “ yellow Gown striped, and followed the Practice of
 “ Midwifry.

“ And whoever will apprehend *John Brownrigg* her
 “ Son, a Youth of a pale Complexion, dark Hair, very
 “ slim, about 19 Years of Age, by Trade a Painter,
 “ who also stands charged on Oath, with being accessory
 “ to the said cruel Treatment, shall have Two Guineas
 “ Reward, to be paid by the Overseers aforesaid.”

The next Day, *Sunday, August 9*, *Mary Clifford* died
 in *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital. A little before her Death,
 the Swelling in her Head and Neck subsided, and she
 was able to swallow, but soon afterwards fell into a high
 Fever and Delirium, in which she died. After her Swel-
 ling was abated, she spoke, but with great Difficulty and
 Pain, and very inarticulately. It was the Opinion of
 the Surgeon who attended her, that the Wounds she had
 received were the Occasion of her Death.

On *Monday* the 10th, the above Advertisement was
 again inserted in the Papers, but with this additional
 Note, which the Death of the poor Girl rendered ne-
 cessary.

“ As *Mary Clifford*, one of the aforesaid Apprentice
 “ Girls, died this Morning, it is necessary to caution all
 “ Persons from harbouring, or in any wise concealing
 “ the above-mentioned *Elizabeth* and *John Brownrigg*;
 “ as whoever harbours or conceals them, shall be pro-
 “ secuted with the utmost Severity of the Law.

W. OWEN, Church-warden.”

On *Tuesday* the 11th of *August*, the Coroner's Inquest
 sat on the Body of *Mary Clifford*, at the *Red Cow* in
Smithfield. The chief Witneis produced to prove the
 Facts, and charge the Criminal, was *Mary Mitchel*; but
 as her Evidence will be given more at large on the Trial,
 we must refer the Particulars to the Account we shall
 then give.

The Surgeon also, who attended her in the Hospital, was clearly of Opinion, that the Wounds and Bruises the Girl had received by the Whippings, for Want of proper Dressings, was the Occasion of her Death. He further declared, that he found six Wounds on her Head, three of which were large, and three smaller; that she had a large Wound on each Shoulder, besides a vast Number of Cuts all over her Body, particularly on the Hips; all which said Wounds appeared to him in a State of Mortification; that her Head and Throat were so prodigiously swelled, that she could neither speak nor swallow.

The Jury having considered of their Verdict, brought it in *Wilful Murder* against *Elizabeth* and *James Brownrigg*. But nothing appearing on this Inquisition to charge their youngest Son *William* with having any Concern in this tragical Affair, he was ordered to be discharged from the *Poultry Compter*, whereto he had been committed on Suspicion.

Mr. *Owen* being informed of what was determined on the Inquisition, summoned a Vestry, in order to take their Sense in what Manner to proceed, in regard to the apprehending *Elizabeth Brownrigg*; and it was resolved to repeat the Advertisement, and to offer a Reward of Twenty Guineas for apprehending her, and Five Guineas for the Son; because it had appeared on the Evidence, that he had been several Times very active in the cruel Usage of the Girls.

It was not long before Intelligence was brought, that Mrs. *Brownrigg* and her Son had taken Places in the *Dover Stage Coach*. But on second Thoughts, believing their Journey thither might be attended with some Danger, they judged it better to lose their Earnest than to proceed in it. They then went to *East-Smithfield*, and took a Lodging in *Nightingale-lane*, where they remained till *Tuesday* the 11th. But before they quitted that Quarter of the Town, they bought some second-hand Apparel, to prevent their being known by their own Cloaths from the Description given of them in the Advertisement.

Taking Coach, from hence they proceeded to the Water-side, and passed over to *Wandsworth*, where they took a Lodging at a Chandler's Shop kept by Mr. *Dunbar*, and on *Sunday* the 16th were there taken. Here they

they passed for Man and Wife, and lay in the same Room, where was but one Bed, and kept themselves very close.

Mr. *Dunbar*, their Landlord, happening to read the Advertisement in the Papers, describing their Persons, and offering a Reward for apprehending them, imagined he could perceive a very great Similitude between the Persons described in the Advertisement, and his Lodgers; and acquainting his Wife with his Suspicions, he resolved to go to Town the next Day, and make the Discovery. Accordingly he went, but Mr. *Owen* being at Church, he went thither, and sending for him into the Vestry, he gave him such a Description of his Lodgers, as convinced Mr. *Owen*, that they must be the same they wanted.

Mr. *Owen*, to proceed with the greater Caution and Secrecy in an Affair of such Importance, sent to Mr. *Deacon*, who had been next Door Neighbour to the *Brownriggs* for two Years past, and therefore was perfectly acquainted with their Persons, and begged the Favour of him to go along with the Constable to *Wandsworth*.

Mr. *Deacon* complied with his Request, immediately set out, and on their Arrival at *Dunbar's* House, the Constable went up directly into their Room; but not knowing their Persons, and seeing them dressed in a Manner very different from the Description given of them in the Advertisement, began to think he was under a Mistake, and was about to withdraw; but Mr. *Deacon* coming in at that Instant, assured him that they were the People he wanted.

At the Sight of their well-known Neighbour, Mr. *Deacon*, the Mother and Son were not a little surprised, but soon composing their Spirits to more Calmness, they quietly submitted to their Fate, only desiring they might not be ill-used or exposed. The Constable searched their Pockets, to prevent any Mischief in their Way to Town. Mr. *Deacon* having, with some Difficulty, procured a Coach, they were conveyed into the Borough. In their Conversation by the Way, Mrs. *Brownrigg* earnestly requested Mr. *Deacon* to employ his Interest with the Landlord, not to let the House, but to keep it in Reserve for her Son; a very odd Subject to employ her Thoughts, considering the very critical Situation she was

in, and Death almost within her View; unless we charitably suppose, that her affectionate Concern for the Welfare of her Family bore down all other Considerations whatsoever.

Being arrived in the Borough, they took a Hackney-Coach, and proceeded to the *Poultry-Compter*, where the Constable delivered up his Prisoners to the Keeper, about Four in the Afternoon.

Mrs. *Brownrigg* no sooner entered the Gate, but she fell into Fits, and was frequently afterwards attacked with strong Convulsions, which, together with her refusing to take any Nourishment, but what was forced upon her, made it doubtful whether she would live to take her Trial. But my Lord Mayor being informed of these Circumstances, ordered that she should be carefully watched, and all possible Care to be taken of her till she was well enough to be carried to *Newgate*.

The Son was in little better Condition than his Mother; for his Mind being filled with all the Horrors of Guilt, and terrified at the Thoughts of the dreadful Punishment which he imagined awaited it, he was seized with a Fever; from which being somewhat recovered, he was, on *Friday August 21*, taken before my Lord Mayor at the *Mansion-house*, where he passed under a long Examination; in the Course of which it appeared, that he had very cruelly treated *Mary Clifford*, deceased; and once, when his Mother had whipped her till she was tired, he, by her Orders, took the Whip, and gave her about twenty Lashes more, notwithstanding he then saw her Body bleeding with many Wounds.

On the *Monday* following, he was again brought before his Lordship, and examined; when *Mary Mitchel* deposed, that he had several Times beat her also very cruelly, particularly once, when he stripped her naked, and tied her up to the Staple which his Mother made Use of for the same Purpose, and there whipped her in a most violent Manner with a Horse-whip, and for no other Fault or Offence than that of eating some Chesnuts, which he pretended were not his own.

This Witness likewise deposed, that about six Months ago, the said *John Brownrigg* beat the Deceased with the Buckle End of a thick Leather Belt, till the Blood ran from her Head, Neck and Shoulders, (several Wounds she

she had before, being but just skinned over) because she did not turn up a Bed, though (as it appeared to this Deponent) she had not Strength to do it: But added, that the Son had not, to her Knowledge, beat the Deceased after the last mentioned Time; and it being the Opinion of the Surgeons, that the Wounds which occasioned her Death were those which she received on the 31st of July last, and the Whippings given by the Son being before that Time, he was not judged accessary to the Murder; but was remanded back to the *Compter*, till it could be known whether the Parish Officers had any other Charge against him.

Mrs. *Brownrigg* being informed of what had passed at the *Mansion-House* on her Son's Examination, grew better, and her Convulsions were less frequent, till the 24th, when they returned with greater Violence than ever; for on that Day, her Son was again carried before the Lord Mayor, charged with a Misdemeanour, in beating the surviving Girl, Apprentice to his Father; when it appeared, on the Oath of the Girl, that he had whipped her naked three Days successively with a Horse-whip, twice by his Mother's Order, and the third Time of his own Accord, because she had eat two or three Chesnuts that lay in her Way, as before related. Upon which he was re-committed to the *Compter*; upon which his Mother being informed of it, again fell into Fits, and so continued till *Friday* the 28th, when his Lordship being informed by the Keeper she was better, sent his Apothecary to enquire what Condition she was in; who reported, that she might, with Safety, be carried to *Newgate*. Upon which a Coach was ordered, and placed as near the *Compter-Gate* as possible, to prevent any Interruption from the Mob, who had, from a Rumour that she was to be examined before his Lordship at the *Mansion-House*, assembled in great Numbers for several Days in the *Poultry*, in order to have a Sight of her. Being helped into the Coach, and the Blinds drawn up, she was carried to *Newgate*, without the least Noise or Disturbance whatever; where her convulsive Fits returned, and continued, by Intervals, till her Trial came on.

On the 4th of *September*, *James Brownrigg* was removed from *Woodstreet-Compter* to *Newgate*, in order to take his Trial at the ensuing Sessions, at the *Old Bailey*.

September

September 9, Bills of Indictment were preferred to the Grand Jury, against *James* and *Elizabeth Brownrigg*, and *John* their Son, for the wilful Murder of *Mary Clifford*; all which were found, and the Son, thereupon, was removed from the *Poultry Compter* to *Newgate*, to take his Trial with his Father and Mother. The next Day, *Thursday* the 10th, Bills of Indictment were also preferred and found against the Father and Son, for an Assault on *Mary Mitchel*.

On *Saturday* September 12, their Trials came on. The Substance of the Evidence given by *Mary Mitchel* was as follows: That she was in the sixteenth Year of her Age; that about two Years ago, she was bound Apprentice to *James Brownrigg* in *Fleur-de-luce* Court; that *Mary Clifford* had been Apprentice there about a Year and a Half, and was a Month upon Liking. During the first Month of her Liking, she was used well, lay on a good Bed, and eat and drank as the Family did; but about a Week after she was bound, her ill Treatment began, and for any trifling Offence, her Mistress beat her over the Head and Shoulders with a Walking-cane and a Hearth-brush. After she was bound, she was made to lie on the Parlour Boards, or in the Passage, and often in the Cellar; and the Reason alledged by her Mistress for using her thus, was her wetting the Bed. Sometimes she lay in her own Cloaths, or else had a Bit of a Blanket to cover her. At other Times, they were both locked up in the Coal-hole under the Cellar Stairs. There she had a Sack stuffed with Straw to lie upon, with a Bit of a Blanket to cover her; but sometimes she was quite naked. The Reason why her Mistress confined her in that dark Hole was, because, being very hungry, the Girl got up one Night, and broke open the Cupboard where the Victuals used to be put, but found none. Her Mistress having discovered this, made her strip herself naked to wash, where she stood all that Day naked, her Mistress whipping her, at Intervals, all the Time. *Mary Clifford* was then about 15 Years of Age. The Instrument her Mistress made Use of in beating her, was the Stump of a Riding-whip. After that Day her Mistress obliged her to lie under the Cellar Stairs, the Coals being taken out to make Room for her. Sometimes they were both locked in together, that is, from *Saturday* Night till *Sunday* Night, when their Master and
Mistress

Mistress went into the Country; during which Time they had nothing to eat but a Piece of Bread, and nothing to drink; and were let out of this dismal Prison on Sunday Night by the Apprentice Boy. At such Times they were generally locked up by *John* the Son, but never by their Master, except once. All the Bed they had to lie upon was sometimes some old Rags they got out of the Garret, and sometimes had only a Boy's Waistcoat to cover them, it being their Mistress's Order, that they should not lie in their Cloaths. About a Year and a Half ago, *John* the Son beat *Mary Clifford* with a Leather Strap, for not turning up the Parlour Bed, as hard as he could strike, though it was beyond her Strength to do it. The Wounds in her Head and Shoulders, which she had but a little before received from her Mistress, and but just scabbed over, were now made to bleed afresh. The Blood dropt on the Ground, so as to make a small Puddle. Once her Master beat her with a Hearth-brush, though never but that once. The Manner in which she used to beat her, was, to tie her up by the Hands to a Water-pipe in the Kitchen, and then to lash her naked Body with a Horse-whip, and seldom left off till she had fetched Blood. About three Months ago, her Master, by her Mistress's Desire, fastened a Hook into the Beam in the Kitchen. The Use that was made of this Hook, was to tie *Mary Clifford* and herself up to be beat. When *Mary Clifford* was tied up, she was always naked, and always beat till she bled. Some Time before the Hook was put up, her Mistress had been beating the Girl a considerable Time with the Horse-whip, as she was fastened to the Water-pipe naked; just as she had unloosed her, *John* coming down, she bid him take the Whip and beat her, which he did, and gave her several severe Strokes. Another Punishment inflicted by her merciless Mistress on *Mary Clifford*, was, by putting a Jack-chain round her Neck, and fastening the other End of it to the Yard-door. It was drawn very tight round her Neck, as hard as it could be without choaking her. The Fault she was thus punished for was, that being a-dry in the Night, she broke down some Boards to get a little Water. She was chained to the Door all Day, but loosed at Night, and then sent into the Cellar, with her Hands tied behind her, the Chain being still on her Neck, and locked under the Cellar Stairs all Night. Her Mistress having
been

been Abroad for some Days, came Home on *Friday* the 31st of *July*. *Mary Clifford* was then pretty well in Health, and her Wounds were scabbed over, but very sore about her Head and Shoulders. About 10 o'Clock that Morning, her Mistress went down into the Kitchen, and tied the Girl up to the Hook, pretending she had done no Work whilst she was Abroad; then she Horse-whipped her all over the Body, so that Drops of Blood trickled down to the Ground. Having let her down, and put her to the Washing-tub, she lashed her again, and with the Butt-end of the Whip struck her two or three Times on the Head as she was stooping over the Tub, bidding her work faster. Five Times she was tied up that Day, and whipped by her Mistress, neither had she any Cloaths on the whole Day, which she was charged not to put on. After the last severe Whipping on *Friday*, her Head and Shoulders were quite raw, and her whole Body all over gash'd with Wounds in a frightful Manner; her Head, Neck and Throat, were prodigiously swelled, infomuch that her Chin, Cheeks, and all, were quite even. Her Mistress then began to think she had gone a little too far, and, to assuage the Swelling, laid a Poultrice of Bread and Milk to her Throat. If any Thing could add to the Barbarity of this Woman, it was, that she would not suffer them to cry out, however cruelly tortured; for if they did, she never left whipping them till they held their Tongue. By the Evidence it likewise appeared, that *Mary Clifford* had a Fall down Stairs with a Sauce-pan in her Hand, the Handle of which hurt one Side of her Face very much; which, her Mistress said, had occasioned her swelled Neck and Face. The Surgeon, under whose Care she was at the Hospital, being asked what he thought was the Cause of the Swelling in her Neck, and whether, if a Jack-chain had been fastened about it, might not occasion such a Swelling? Answered, it might, and that there was on her Neck a Sort of a Ring, as if something had been tied about it, which could not be caused by the Sauce-pan.

Thus have we given the Substance of *Mitchel's* Evidence on this memorable Occasion; but for a more particular and circumstantial Account of that, as well as of the other Witnesses, on whose Testimonies the Jury were enabled to form their Verdict, we must refer the Reader to the Trial itself, published by the Authority of the Court;

Court; only remarking, that in the Defence made by the Prisoner, *Elizabeth Brownrigg*, she partly owned the Charge against her; only saying, that in beating the Girl, she had no Design against her Life.

James Brownrigg, in his Defence, called several Persons to his Character, who gave him that of a sober, industrious, good-natured Man. And indeed it appeared from the Confession of the deceased Girl, on her Examination before the Alderman at *Guildhall*, on her being asked, whether her Master ever beat her? replied, No. And *Mary Mitchel* acknowledged, that her Master never beat her, except only that he might hit her a Tap on the Head or so. Nor was it probable that Mr. *Brownrigg* knew the Cruelties practised on the poor Girls by his Wife, if what she solemnly declared, while under Sentence in *Newgate*, be true, namely, That all her Acts of Barbarity exercised on the Children were done with the utmost Privacy, to prevent a Discovery by the Neighbours; that her Husband never knew that she ever beat or whipped, or practised any other Cruelties upon them, nor did he know for what Purpose she desired him to drive a Hook into the Beam. She likewise owned, that her Son *John* had beat them three different Times very severely, but not without her Orders: That once in particular, when *Mary Clifford* was emaciated with Hunger, and weakened by her cruel Treatment, she ordered her to turn up a Bed, which wanting Strength to do, she bid him beat her till she did; upon which he beat her with a Belt, which had a Buckle at the End of it, till the Blood ran down from several Parts of her Body, and fell in Puddles on the Floor. Upon the whole, she acquitted her Husband of being concerned in, or having any Knowledge of those Barbarities she had exercised on the poor Girls; which she might do unknown to him, as he was very much Abroad about his Business.

The Judge having summed up the Evidence, the Jury, after a short Consultation among themselves, brought in their Verdict, by which *James Brownrigg* was acquitted, *Elizabeth* his Wife found guilty, and *John* the Son acquitted.

Elizabeth received Sentence of Death immediately, and to be executed on the *Monday* following. But *James* and *John* were detained, on an Indictment preferred against them for assaulting and abusing *Mary Mitchel*.

After her Commitment to *Newgate*, but before her

Trial, a Friend of her's went to visit her, to whom she declared how unhappy she was in being the miserable Instrument of bringing such terrible Distresses on herself and Family, whom she endeavoured to exculpate, by taking all the Guilt on herself. At his going away, she desired him to repeat his Visits as often as he could, for there was no Body she could open her Mind to so freely as to him. He complied with her Request, and promised he would come as often as he conveniently could. *September 3*, he visited her again, when he found her at Prayers, but her Spirits much dejected.

The next Time he called upon her was *September 8*, when she appeared much more dejected than at any Time he had seen her before. She desired him to bring her a good Book, and that she would take it as a Favour, if he would go to the Mistress of the Workhouse, and ask her for Five Shillings, due to her for the Delivery of a Woman there. He complied with both her Requests. He immediately sent her a good Book, and in a Day or two brought her the Five Shillings, for both which she was extremely thankful, protesting her Necessity was so great, that she had been forced to borrow some Halfpence of a Woman who was with her in the same Room; which may serve to refute those idle Reports that were spread about, of her having a great deal of Money about her.

While this great Criminal lay under Sentence of Death in *Newgate*, she seemed to be impressed with a deep Sense of her deplorable Condition, and of the heinous Nature of her Crimes, crying out, in the Agony of her Soul, " O Lord, cleanse me from this horrid Fact, and let
" the Blood of Christ speak better Things for me, than
" the Blood of that innocent Child I have so cruelly and
" barbarously murdered !"

She confessed, that the most material Part of the Evidence against her was true, acknowledged the Justice of her Sentence, and that her Punishment was no more than what she had merited for her inhuman Treatment of those poor Girls. " O ! said she, that I had but had Half the
" Mercy towards the poor Girls that I experienced from
" the Judge who tried me, or the Council who pleaded
" against me ; in that Case I should never have come to
" an untimely End. But Thanks be to God, that my
" Husband and Child are acquitted, for they knew no
" thing of my last Cruelty till after it was committed ;
" and

“ and when it came to his Knowledge, he resolved to
 “ send the Girl into the Country, that a Surgeon should
 “ attend her, and to use all possible Means to recover her;
 “ but all his good Intentions were frustrated, by the Dis-
 “ covery made by Mr. *Deacon*’s Servants: Adding, that
 “ her Husband did not deny the Girl to the Parish Offi-
 “ cers from any Consciousness of Guilt in himself, but
 “ to screen her, who, he feared, would appear in a very
 “ unfavourable Light, should the Girl be produced.”

In her Confessions, she acknowledged she had for many Years served God, and walked in his Ways; and had not only the Form of Godliness, but experienced much Delight in the Service of God, and found the Ways of Wisdom to be pleasant, and all her Paths Peace; that she attended public Worship every Opportunity, and when she had a large Family of small Children, was constantly, for several Years, at the early Sacrament of *Brow-Church*, and constantly read Prayers in her Family; but that she had lately neglected the same, by which Means, and frequently breaking the Sabbath, she believed to be the first Inlet to the Wickedness she had unhappily fallen into; and having left her God, he had hardened her Heart, and suffered her to commit those Acts of Cruelty, for which she justly merited the Punishment, to which, by the righteous Sentence of the Court, she was adjudged.

The Time between her Condemnation and Execution being very short, she was very careful to employ it in pious Exercises, and in preparing for that immortal State which she had so near a Prospect of. Sleep was now banished from her Eyes, and she spent the first Night in fervent Prayer, and imploring God for Mercy and Forgiveness of her great and enormous Offences; wishing the Time was come when she should pay the Debt due to her Crime. She said, she did not think her Sufferings were a sufficient Atonement for her Sins, and was sensible she could only be saved by the Merits and Sufferings of Christ, or perish eternally. She attended Chapel on *Sunday* Morning, and behaved with the utmost Seriousness and Devotion, where her Husband and Son, at her Request, were permitted to be present. After Service was over, very affecting was the Scene between these unhappy People. Their mutual Caresses, their Tears, which flowed in abundance, and their affectionate Concern for each other,

is more easy to imagine, than to be described by all the Powers of Language.

In the Morning of Execution, she was called down early into the Press-yard, where she joined in Prayer with the Ordinary. After which she went up to Chapel, where she seemed very devout during the Service; and then received the Sacrament in Company with her Husband and Son, who were permitted once more to see her, and to take the last Farewel of each other. She seemed quite composed and resigned to her Fate, fervently praying to God, that he would deliver her from Blood-guiltiness; expressing herself in such Terms as these; "I have nothing to plead or recommend me to thee but my Misery; but thy beloved Son died for Sinners, therefore on his Merits I rely and depend for Pardon." She continued in Prayer, in which she was joined by her Husband and Son for upwards of two Hours, and then took Leave of them. Their Parting produced a Scene which it is impossible to describe by Words, and so moving, that none present could refrain from Tears. Her Husband assured her, that whenever he should obtain his Liberty, of which he had not the least Doubt on the Proof of his Innocence, he did not question but he should be able, by the Blessing of God, to provide for his two younger Children, and therefore begged her not to be troubled on that Account. She, in Answer, entreated him to release himself from the Prison of Sin; and as for her Children, she committed them to the Care of God's Providence, who, she hoped, would not suffer them to be used as she had treated the unhappy Girls. Her Son fell on his Knees, and begged her Blessing; upon which she tenderly embraced and kissed him, while her Husband was kneeling on the other Side, praying, that God would have Mercy on her Soul. She replied, "Dear James, I beg of God, for Christ's Sake, that he would be reconciled, and that he will not leave me nor forsake me in the Hour of Death, and in the Day of Judgment." Having taken their last Adieu of each other, she went down into the Press-Yard; where having prayed for some Time, she was put into the Cart, and conveyed to Tyburn.

At the Place of Execution, she seemed quite composed, and joined in Prayer; acknowledged her Guilt, and the Justice of her Sentence. Her last Words were, *Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit.*

F I N I S.



